

"black robes." They hear only the word of profligate preachers, whose one aim is to swindle the poor Indians. The Seminoles have long forgotten those saintly missionaries who watered the Floridan soil with their blood. They no longer remember America's first apostles and martyrs—martyrs to the savage ferocity of unchristianized Indians. They fail to recognize the ministers of the Roman Catholic Church as the only true shepherds of Christ. May God in His divine mercy have pity on them, and may He enlighten their souls in the ways of truth.

### UNCLE SAM'S RED WARDS.

**Commissioner Browning Very Hopeful for Lo  
—The Indian Commissioner Says the  
Child of the Prairies Is Learning  
to Work Out His Own  
Civilization.**

United States Commissioner of Indian Affairs Daniel M. Browning arrived in St. Louis from Washington on his way to the Pacific Coast on a tour of inspection of the Indian agencies that come under his direction and control. He is accompanied by Mrs. Browning and their son, LeRoy, who is private secretary to the Commissioner.

Commissioner Browning said there are 250,000 Indians in the United States and they cost the government in round numbers \$9,000,000 a year. This includes the expenses of maintaining the agencies, cost of distributing the money and provisions, blankets, etc., guaranteed to them by their treaties with the United States, cost of maintaining the Indian schools, expenses of instructing them in agriculture, and a thousand and one incidentals of a great care of that nature. The whole department is under the supervision of the Secretary of the Interior, but the real work devolves upon Commissioner Browning and his force of assistants in Washington, and on the various agencies. Behind

the Secretary of the Interior and the Commissioner of Indian Affairs is the Congress of the United States, which has the power to call out the regular army in the event of an outbreak.

Commissioner Browning said that the great mass of the red men are disposed to be peaceable, and the warlike attributes of the American Indian are rapidly passing away under the civilizing effects of the course pursued by the government for their education and the betterment of their condition.

There are now 250 Indian schools with a total attendance of 24,000. In all there are 150 reservations and 50 agents. Within the past few years a very large percentage of the Indians have become self-supporting, and a vast source of expense to the government has thus been cut off. In New Mexico and Arizona there are 20,000 Navajoes, nearly all of whom have become self-supporting. They have settled down to quiet lives on their farms, have engaged extensively in sheep raising and the manufacture of blankets, and are gradually forging to the front as farmers and independent people.

### NAVAJOES ARE WORKERS.

In the case of the Navajoes particularly has it been demonstrated that the theory that no Indian will work, that the only good Indian is a dead Indian, is a fallacy.

The Navajo blankets have many excellent qualities, and have begun to be extensively sold in the markets, particularly in the West. They have in the neighborhood of 2,000,000 sheep, and a vast number of ponies which they use to advantage in their sheep raising. In New Mexico the government is engaged in building a number of ditches for irrigation purposes, and the Navajoes have done a great deal of the work. All who are not employed on the ranches apply for work in the ditches, and they re-